



MAYFLOWER COLLEGE

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english@maycoll.co.uk www.maycoll.co.uk

General Information for your stay in Plymouth

Information for under 18's travelling to the UK

In the UK, students under 18 years are considered as children according to UK law. Therefore parents (or guardians) must give permission for their child to travel independently to the UK and be aware that the supervision of children under 18 years enrolled on Adult General English courses will be shared between the Mayflower College (during lessons and activities) and the homestay provider (evenings and weekends) upon arrival in Plymouth. Please ensure that the **Parental consent form** is signed and returned to the Mayflower College prior to arrival in the UK. Please also read our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy listed at http://www.maycoll.co.uk/policies/Safeguarding_and_Child_Protection.pdf

Insurance before you travel

- The Mayflower College recommends you have insurance (including cover for travel, personal belongings and medical treatment in the UK) **before** you travel to the UK. If you need help with booking this, please email english@maycoll.co.uk

Immigration

- Please ensure that you have entry clearance (for example a visa) if required. The Mayflower College is accredited by the British Council (Accreditation UK) for Student Visitor Visas (SSV). You can apply for a SVV (up to 6 months) or an ESVV (up to 11 months study). More information can be found at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/do-you-need-a-visa/> Keep your passport, travel documents and confirmation letters in your hand luggage to show when you pass through immigration control. We are also accredited by ISI and a registered sponsor of Tier 4 visas. For more information on our accreditation visit <http://www.maycoll.co.uk/english/british-council-accreditation.htm>
- Rules governing immigration are complex – up to date information is available from your British Embassy.

Arranging your travel to Plymouth

- We can provide you with information about travelling from the London airports to Plymouth. We can assist with booking "Meet and Greet" services, coach and train tickets or a private taxi transfer – please email english@maycoll.co.uk for information and prices.
- **Before you depart you should have:** your passport, letter of confirmation for immigration procedures, visa (if necessary) and your flight, coach or train tickets. You should also have your host family details from the Mayflower College.



Travelling by coach or train

- If your onward travel to Plymouth is by **coach**, (National Express) the journey will take approximately 4 hours and a return ticket will cost approx. £40 to £60 depending on the day of travel. Visit <http://www.nationalexpress.com> to book online (or email us if you need help with booking).
- If you are travelling by **train**, the journey to Plymouth will take approximately 4 hours if you are coming from London. Tickets vary in price depending on how far in advance you buy the ticket. Visit www.thetrainline.com to book online.

- You should try to arrive in Plymouth **after 7:30am and before 10.30pm** so your host family can meet you upon arrival in Plymouth. If you arrive in Plymouth after 10.30pm and before 7:30am, you will need to take a taxi at your own expense from the bus station or train station to the host family.

Travelling by private taxi

- If you arrange to travel by private taxi you will be met in the arrivals lounge by a representative from the taxi company. The representative will have a board with your name on.
- The taxi driver will escort you from the airport direct to your host family. The journey will take approximately 4 to 5 hours if you are coming from London, 2.5 hours if you are coming from Bristol, and approximately 1 hour if you are coming from Exeter.
- If the taxi representative is not there to meet you, please go to the Airport information desk and ask for assistance.

Your home-stay accommodation



- You will have a single room with an area for private study. Your family will provide breakfast and evening meal between Monday and Friday and breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal on Saturday and Sunday .
- Every care is taken to match you with an appropriate host family. Your host family will be friendly and welcoming and will give you every opportunity to practice your English and feel at home.
- English food varies considerably and your host family will make every effort to prepare food that you enjoy. Inform the college prior to your arrival if you have any special dietary requirements (vegetarian, allergies etc).
- The Mayflower College will also be able to help you if any problems arise. Speak to your teacher or the Student Services Officers if you have any questions.

Telephoning your parents



- Upon arrival at the host family, you will be able to make a reverse charges call to speak to your parents so they know that you have arrived safely! All families generally have wi-fi available to students, so you can Skype or send an email - please ask your family for details.
- Mayflower College sells international telephone cards for students to use from private and public telephones (£5 cards are available), and we have lots of PCs for students to use to access the internet.

Your first day

- On the first day of lessons your host families will bring you to college at 09.00 hrs. There will be a 15-minute talk for all new students and lessons will commence at 9.15 hrs. Your family will collect you after lessons on your first day.

Travelling to school by bus



- You can buy a bus pass for travel on local buses from the Mayflower College. Your host family will live a short bus ride (usually 10 to 20 minutes) away from the city centre. Typically a 1-week bus pass will cost between £13 and £15.
- Your host family will tell you where to catch the bus and give you information about the times of your bus home.
- Copies of bus route maps and timetable information are available from the Mayflower College.

Your lessons

- On the first day there is a meeting for new students at 09.00 hrs. Morning lessons are 09.15 – 12:30 hrs (with a 15 min break at 11:00 – 11:15hrs) and if you are studying in the afternoon, lesson times are 13:30 – 15:30 hrs.

Weekends and free time

- Students **under 18 years on Adult General English courses are allowed out unsupervised in the evenings** but we have a recommended curfew time of **22:00hrs (10pm)**. If you go out, please tell your host family where you are going, with whom and exactly what time you intend to return, as host families should be aware of where you and whom you are with, at all times.
- On some Saturdays, Mayflower College will offer excursions to places of interest in the local area, which you may go on in exchange for a nominal fee. Please ask in the office for details of the next available excursion.
- In most instances, you are free on Sunday to spend the day with your host family. You are allowed out unsupervised on these days. However, you must tell your homestay exactly where you will be going and agree a time to return on these days.

Valuables and pocket money

- Please ensure that you have a special place to keep your money, passport and tickets safely. Many meals are provided and we recommend that students should bring a **maximum of £100** per week for pocket money.

Leaving the Mayflower College & Plymouth

- When the time comes for you to leave Plymouth, the Student Services Officers can assist you with your departure information if necessary. Please ask if you need help
- If you are due to leave your accommodation after 7am and before midnight, your host family will take you to your departure point in Plymouth. If you are leaving your accommodation after midnight and before 7am you will need to take a taxi at your own expense to the departure point.
- On your last day, you will receive a “Certificate”, giving details of your progress at the Mayflower College.

Other Important Information

- It is illegal to buy tobacco or alcohol if you are under 18 years old
- It is illegal to carry any weapons, even for personal defence (including CS gas sprays).
- In Britain narcotic drugs are strictly controlled by law. Do not carry any non-medicinal drugs with you unless you have a Doctor’s advice note.
- Look carefully in both directions when you cross the road. Cars drive on the left in Britain.

We recommend that you bring:

- A hat, waterproof jacket and some warm clothes (it often rains in Plymouth and is cold!). Check out the weather online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2640194>)
- A passport sized photograph (for your Mayflower student identity card).

If you would like further information, help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact:

Paul STEVENS Director / Jill TYLER General Manager
Laura BISHOP Student Services (Junior Welfare) Officer
Neil VOGLER Student Services & Welfare (Accommodation for Adults)
Lucy TRAIN Student Services & Welfare (Accommodation for Juniors)

Mayflower College, 1 Radford Road, The Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 3BY.

Tel: 44-(0)1752 673784 Fax: 44-(0)1752 671537

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